Widening gap between import and export value

†1576. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the difference between import value and export value of import-export trade of the country has been widening during the past years;

(b) if so, the amount of said difference in 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and in first 9 months of 2004-05 separately; and

(c) the annual increase rate in the import and export in above periods separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Trade deficit of US$ 7.59 billion, US$ 8.69 billion and US$ 14.3 billion was recorded during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively. Trade deficit of US$ 20.15 billion was recorded during the first nine months of 2004-05, *i.e.* April-December.

(c) Based on the data compiled by the Directorate General Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, the annual growth rate of imports and exports during the above periods is as under:

Year	Annual Growth Rate (%)	
	Imports	Exports
2001-02	1.7	-1.6
2002-03	19.45	20.3
2003-04	27.25	21.10
April-Dec, 2004-05/ April-Dec, 2003-04 (P)	33.64	23.42

(P)-Provisional

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.